

CalWORKs Bulletin

April 17, 1998

California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs

Issue 1

CalWORKs Fax Hotline

A CalWORKs fax hotline has been instituted as a timely method for two-way communication between counties and ADP. The focus of the communications will be on information sharing (both from the counties and from ADP), questions and answers and implementation status updates. You are encouraged to share your best practices for inclusion in the CalWORKs Bulletin so others may benefit from your experiences. The CalWORKs fax hotline and Bulletin are intended to be statewide communication vehicles for you in implementing CalWORKs in your counties. It can be a valuable resource for you if you choose to use it. The fax hotline number is (916) 445-5084.

Welfare Reform Sites on the Web

American Public Welfare Association (APWA):
www.apwa.org

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD):
www.nasadad.org

Welfare Information Network (WIN):
www.welfareinfo.org/index.html

The President's Welfare to Work Program:
www.arnet.gov/welfare.html

Welfare Reform Academy @ University of Maryland:
www.welfare_reform_academy.org

Welfare Watch @ University of Southern California:
www.welfarewatch.org

Did You Know?

According to the CalWORKs questionnaire which was distributed at the March 25, 1998 CADPAAC quarterly meeting and completed by the 40 counties in attendance:

- 58% of the counties have CalWORKs funds available for AOD start up costs.
- 30% of the counties are "work first" counties.
- 75% of the counties are using interdisciplinary teams which includes an AOD member.
- 93% of county AOD administrators are contracting with county welfare departments to provide CalWORKs substance abuse treatment services.
- 5% of county welfare directors are also contracting directly with providers for CalWORKs substance abuse treatment services.

ADP will be sending out the CalWORKs questionnaire to those counties who did not have a chance to complete it at the CADPAAC quarterly meeting. Also, counties can update their information as CalWORKs plans become finalized or revised.

If you know of other web sites which may be useful, please fax them for inclusion in the next CalWORKs Bulletin.

Q's and A's

Q: Can convicted drug felon mothers participate in the Jobs Program?

A: *According to the Employment Development Department (EDD) who researched this question, no. They are not eligible for benefits in either the Welfare-to-Work Grant Program or the CalWORKs Program.*

Q: If a CalWORKs recipient is in residential treatment, is their cash aid terminated since they are absent from the home?

A: *No, their cash aid will not be terminated. Per the Department of Social Services Eligibility and Assistance Standards 82-812.1, 82-812-51 and 82-812.63, an assistance unit (AU) member can be absent from the home for up to one full calendar month and retain their eligibility. There are certain exceptions which allow the AU member to be absent for longer than one full calendar month and retain their eligibility. A drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation treatment facility is an exception, therefore, a CalWORKs recipient will retain their eligibility for the duration of their residential treatment as long as they are otherwise eligible.*

Keep an Eye on . . .

- Data reporting will be a significant component in our ability to prove that "treatment works" for this population, as well as showing our need for continued funding.
- Federal TANF regulations are due out in August 1998.
- The Welfare-to-Work Grant Program funds are not distributed to the Private Industry Councils (PICs) yet, however, collaboration with the PICs should be in process if you have determined that there is a need in your county to contract with the PICs for substance abuse services.
- 15% of the Welfare-to-Work Grant Program funds are for the Governor's special project funding for the welfare-to-work hardest to serve population. A competitive proposal process will be used, so if you identify a need within your county, begin your collaboration at the local level to develop your proposals.

Don't Forget That . . .

- Beginning January 1, 1998, there is a new CADDs and DATAR CalWORKs reporting requirement (refer to ADP Letter 97-65).
- Drug/Medi-Cal claims for CalWORKs clients must be submitted separately from other Drug/Medi-Cal claims (refer to ADP Bulletin 98-14 for instructions).
- With the passage of the CalWORKs legislation, the AOD field has a unique opportunity to forge new alliances, educate others regarding our field, expand our services and respond as the recognized experts in the substance abuse treatment field.